

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An implant device for an osteochondral defect comprising:
 - a first plate made of a resorbable biocompatible material, ~~wherein the first plate includes a dome portion defining a convex articulating surface;~~
 - a second plate made of said resorbable biocompatible material, the second plate including a substantially flat plate surface and an opposite substantially flat plate surface with a plurality of radially extending bores formed in the second plate, each of the radially extending bores including a ledge positioned therein between the substantially flat plate surface and the opposite substantially flat plate surface; and
 - a load transfer structure made of said resorbable biocompatible material and situated between said first plate and said second plate, said load transfer structure comprising a plurality of radially oriented load transfer supports and at least one hook-shaped prong extending away from each of the load transfer supports, each of the hook-shaped prongs including a first portion extending outward from the associated load transfer support and a second portion extending substantially perpendicular to the first portion in the radial direction, the second portion configured to engage the ledge of one of the radially extending bores.

2. (Original) The implant device of claim 1, wherein said resorbable biocompatible material is a polymer.
3. (Original) The implant device of claim 2, wherein said polymer comprises polycrystalline polyethylene.
4. (Original) The implant device of claim 1, wherein said second plate is porous.
5. (Cancelled) The implant device of claim 1, wherein said first plate, said second plate and said load transfer structure comprise a unitary structure.
6. (Original) The implant device of claim 1, wherein said load transfer structure is integral with said first plate, and receivable by said second plate.
7. (Original) The implant device of claim 1, further comprising a fixation device extending from said second plate.
8. (Currently amended) An implant device for an osteochondral defect comprising:
an upper plate made of a resorbable biocompatible polymer, wherein the upper plate includes a dome portion extending substantially across an upper surface of the upper plate, the dome portion defining a convex articulating surface;
a lower plate made of the resorbable biocompatible polymer and having a plurality of exposure bores; and

a load transfer structure situated between said upper plate and said lower plate.

9. (Original) The implant device of claim 8, further comprising a fixation member axially extending from a bottom surface of said lower plate.

10. (Original) The implant device of claim 9, wherein said fixation member comprises a stem having a plurality of radially extending barbs.

11. (Original) The implant device of claim 8, wherein said implant device is adapted to receive a resorbable cartilage scaffold between said upper plate and said lower plate.

12. (Original) The implant device of claim 8, wherein said polymer comprises polyester.

13. (Original) The implant device of claim 8, wherein said upper plate is porous.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The implant device of claim 8, wherein said load transfer structure is integral with said upper plate and receivable by said lower plate.

16. (Original) The implant device of claim 15, wherein said load transfer structure includes an attachment structure configured to be press fit into receiving bores in said lower plate.

17. (Original) The implant device of claim 16, wherein said load transfer structure comprises a plurality of individual supports, and said attachment structure comprises an attachment component associated with each individual support.

18. (Currently amended) An implant for load bearing bone articulation surfaces comprising:

an upper plate made of a bio-resorbable polymer and having an upper center bore,
~~wherein the upper plate includes a dome portion defining a convex articulating surface;~~

a lower plate made of the bio-resorbable polymer and having a lower center bore surrounded by a plurality of exposure bores; and

a plurality of load transfer supports situated between a lower surface of said upper plate and an upper surface of said lower plate, said load transfer supports surrounding said upper and lower center bores ~~bore,~~ and said load transfer supports including a plurality of substantially rectangular walls extending radially outward from said upper and lower center bores.

19. (Original) The implant of claim 18, wherein a scaffold retention area is defined about said load transfer supports.

20. (Original) The implant of claim 18, further comprising:
a fixation member axially extending from a lower surface of said lower plate.
21. (Currently amended) The implant of claim 20, wherein said fixation member comprises:
a tube having a center bore that is coaxial with said ~~upper and lower center bores~~
bore; and
a plurality of retention flanges extending radially from an outside surface of said tube.
22. (Cancelled) ~~The implant of claim 18, wherein said upper plate, said lower plate and said load transfer structure comprise a unitary structure.~~
23. (Previously presented) The implant of claim 18, wherein said load transfer supports are integral with said upper plate and include hook members receivable by receiving bores said lower plate.
24. (Currently Amended) The implant of claim 23, wherein each of said load transfer supports includes an attachment structure configured to be press fit into receiving bores in said lower plate.
25. (Cancelled)

26. (Withdrawn) The implant of claim 18, wherein each of said load transfer supports includes an attachment structure configured to be twist locked into receiving bores in the upper plate or the lower plate.

27. (Currently amended) The implant of claim 18, wherein each of said plurality of load transfer supports includes at least one prong extending axially upward and radially outward such that the prong defines a hook shape ~~includes a plurality of walls extending radially from said lower center bore.~~

28. (Withdrawn) The implant of claim 18, wherein said plurality of load transfer supports include a plurality of arcuate walls situated about said lower center bore.

29. (New) The implant of claim 27 wherein said plurality of load transfer supports are secured to the upper plate, wherein a plurality of radially extending bores are provided in the lower plate, each of the radially extending bores including a shelf positioned therein, and each of the radially extending bores configured to receive the prong extending from one of said plurality of load transfer supports such that the prong engages the shelf of the bore.